

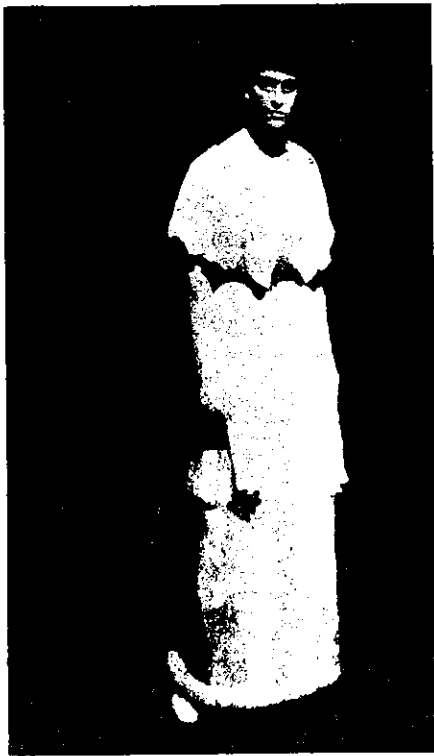
# New Zealand Academy of Fine Arts.

## ANNUAL EXHIBITION.

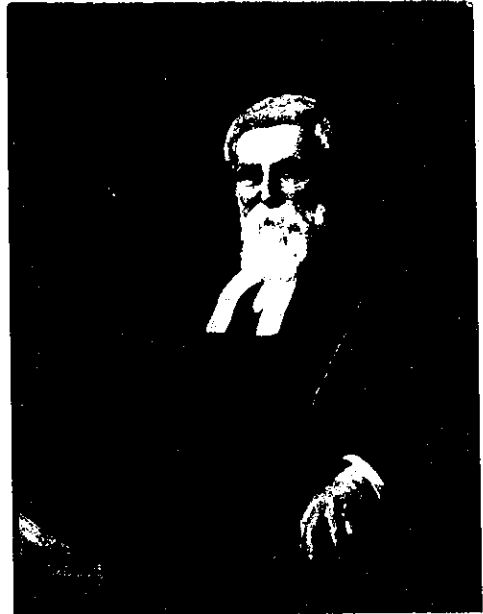
By "MARCUS ANTONIUS."

It is said that the true value of art does not come out in segregation, but in comparison. We venture to say that this is an anomaly, and whatever meaning is adduced from it, it has its limits. For instance, it is with pleasure we are able to note that in taking very drastic measures in the rejection of

130. We anticipate that there has been much disappointment to would-be aspirants for exhibition honours, not to mention heartburning and in some cases a feeling of injustice. This weeding out of illegimates is a step in the right direction. It assists the general public to discern the legitimate attempts in the portrayal of nature as compared with the dilettante, the potboiler and the mere tyro. To the latter it should act as a spur for higher achievement to be attained by deeper and more conscientious study. We make the last statement "advisedly," for



No. 206—Beryl (Oil), by Harley Griffiths.



No. 259—The Hon. Sir Robert Stout, K.C.M.G., LL.D. (Oil), by Archibald F. Nicholl.

a large percentage of works sent in for exhibition, the hanging committee of this society at the exhibition which was opened to the public on October 3rd have done a great service, which should find honest appreciation with the layman and the artist alike. For, hitherto it has been the practice of the various societies of this Dominion to exhibit almost all and everything that has been offering for exhibition. A procedure which to our way of thinking belies their status. The *raison d'être* of an Art Society is fundamentally an educational one. In order to be successful in that respect it is primarily essential that a Hanging Committee should truly appreciate the responsibility of their duties, be it to the artist or the attending patrons. We have been informed that the number of "rejects" on this occasion total close on

amongst such rejects are always to be found signs of talent which only need being led in the right direction. Of all careers, that of a successful artist needs the greatest amount of diligent patience and striving for. We cannot say that the exhibition is entirely free of all that is undesirable. As will be seen by our notes we have had to condemn exhibits from some of those who in art circles and elsewhere are meritoriously quoted, and who for the sake of such good reputations would have been well advised to have withheld this or that example of their talents from public gaze. The greatest amount of interest will centre around Mr. A. F. Nicolls' portrait of the Chief Justice, Sir Robert Stout. This is the most noteworthy portraiture work we have seen from the brush of Mr. Nicolls. It presents an excellent likeness, is